



ĀZŪITI-

ĀZŪITI-, an Avestan word (cf. Skt. *āhuti-*) meaning “oblation of fat.” It occurs twice in the *Gāθās*, once together with *ižā-* (*Y.* 49.5), once, it seems, with particular reference to the ritual offering to fire (*Y.* 29.7; see *ātaš-zōhr*). In the younger Avesta milk and *āzūiti-* are revered together as the two offerings which make the waters flow and plants grow (*Y.* 16.8; cf. *Y.* 68.2).

Āzūiti- (rendered in Pahlavi simply by *čarbīh* “fat”) is also used for fat in an ordinary sense, as forming, with milk and flesh, suitable food for dogs (*Vd.* 13.28).

The word is grammatically feminine and from it there evolved the concept of a divine being representing Fatness or Plenty. In *Yasna Haptaŋhāiti* she is invoked among a group of female divinities who, with the Waters, represent the sustaining, fecund aspect of creation (*Y.* 38.2); and in *Vd.* 9.53 she is venerated with *Ižā* and other “abstract” divinities. She does not appear, however, to have had an active role in later Zoroastrianism as attested from the Sasanian period onwards.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

AirWb., cols. 343-44.

I. Gershevitch, *JRAS*, 1952, p. 178.

H. Humbach, *IF* 63, 1957, pp. 50-51.

Idem, *Die Gathas des Zarathustra*, Heidelberg, 1959, I, p. 82 and II, p. 17.

R. Zaehner, *The Dawn and Twilight of Zoroastrianism*, London, 1961, repr. 1975, p. 34 with n. 8 p. 325.

M. Boyce, *BSOAS* 33, 1970, p. 32.

Search terms:

آزوتی azuiti